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February 20, 2023

Dear members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

I am writing in support of the bill HF1566 for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline 988.

Rise is a nonprofit organization providing services to Minnesotans with disabilities and mental illness. We serve over 2,500 people per year and have twenty-six locations. In the mental health area specifically, we provide ARMHS, housing and employment supports to some of our most vulnerable citizens.

The people we serve regularly use the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. This service is critical for Minnesota. Without it, many more people will suffer and potentially die by suicide. The Suicide and Crisis Lifeline also preserves emergency resources for those in the greatest danger by de-escalating over 95% of situations on the phone or via text.

Building capacity for the 988 Lifeline centers by initiating a telecom fee is a critical step toward addressing mental health and crisis response needs in Minnesota and reducing the engagement of 911 response and law enforcement in mental health crisis.

Rise enthusiastically supports the passage of bill HF1566. Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Noren'.

Lynn Noren
President & CEO